

Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 SSM-03 NEAE-00
CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00
PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00
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FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4658
INFO AMCONSUL ALEXANDRIA
AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
AMEMBASSY AMMAN
USINT BAGHDAD
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
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SUBJECT: JANUARY 24 PRESS ON PEACE PROCESS

REF: CAIRO 02546

SUMMARY. SADAT AND AIDES STUDYING STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES.
OFFICIALS SAY PRESENCE OF ISRAELI MILITARY IN CAIRO IS
EVIDENCE THAT TALKS NOT TERMINATED. HOWEVER, "RADICAL

CHANGE" IN ISRAELI VIEWS ON WITHDRAWAL AND SETTLEMENTS NECESSARY. U.S. SAID TO SEE PALESTINIAN QUESTION AS MAIN PROBLEM AND DAYAN REPORTEDLY REJECTS CARTER ASWAN STATEMENT ON PALESTINIANS. ATHERTON REPORTEDLY ACTIVE AND HEADING FOR CAIRO WHILE "U.S. OFFICIALS" PREDICT "DIRECT, EFFECTIVE U.S. ROLE" TO GET TALKS UNDER WAY IN FEW DAYS. SENATOR MC CLURE "DENOUNCES ISRAELI INTRANSIGENCE". COMMENTARY CONTINUES HIT ISRAEL AND DEMAND U.S.

"FULFILL ITS RESPONSIBILITIES". VIEW FOCUSING ON DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES, WHICH ISRAEL MUST AGREE TO IMPLEMENT, AS KEY TO PROGRESS. AS ACRIMONY OF MEDIA DIALOGUE MOUNTS, EGYPTIANS INCREASINGLY DOUBTFUL PEACE WILL COME. REACTION TO BEGIN SPEECH AND ARMS SALES COVERED SEPTELS. END SUMMARY.

1. STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES. PRINCIPAL EVENT WAS JANUARY 23 MEETING OF SADAT, MUBARAK AND KAMEL TO OUTLINE NEXT STEPS AND STUDY DRAFT DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES GIVEN BY SECRETARY VANCE TO SADAT JANUARY 20. FOREIGN MINISTRY SOURCE SAID POLITICAL AND MILITARY COMMITTEES CONTINUE TO EXIST. PRESENCE OF ISRAELI MILITARY DELEGATES IN CAIRO "PROVES THAT WORK HAS BEEN FROZEN, NOT TERMINATED." ACCORDING PRESS, OFFICIAL EGYPTIAN CIRCLES BELIEVE "RADICAL CHANGE" IN ISRAELI POSITION ON WITHDRAWAL AND SELF-DETERMINATION "ESSENTIAL FOR AGREEMENT ON DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES."

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TION OF PRINCIPLES."

2. FONMIN KAMEL TOLD AHRAH EGYPTIANS AND ISRAELIS SHOULD DEFINE POSITION IN "QUIET WAY". TALKS COULD BE RESUMED "IF ISRAEL STOPPED IMPOSING CONDITIONS . . . FOR STEPS TO COME DEPEND BASICALLY ON REACHING DEFINITE PRINCIPLES." KAMEL ALSO REJECTED BEGIN ACCUSATIONS OF ANTI-SEMITISM.

3. U.S. AHRAH REPORTS STATE DEPARTMENT BELIEVES SINAI QUESTION SOLUBLE, BUT PALESTINIAN ISSUE REAL STUMBLING BLOCK. SAME STORY CLAIMED DAYAN TOLD VANCE ISRAEL CANNOT ACCEPT PRESIDENT CARTER'S REMARKS IN ASWAN CONCERNING RIGHT OF PALESTINIANS TO PARTICIPATE IN DETERMINING THEIR FUTURE. ATHERTON, MEANWHILE, ACTIVE IN JERUSALEM. HELD MEETINGS JANUARY 23 WITH DAYAN AND WEIZMAN "ON PALESTINIAN QUESTION AND RESTORING MOMENTUM TO PEACE PROCESS." ALSO REPORTEDLY TELEPHONED FONMIN KAMEL AND SAID HE WOULD BE COMING TO CAIRO END OF THIS WEEK. PRESS SHEDS NO LIGHT ON SPECIFIC U.S. ACTIVITIES BUT GUMHURIYYA, CITING "U.S. OFFICIALS" SAYS U.S. "WILL MEDIATE DIRECTLY AND PLAY ACTIVE ROLE TO HAVE TALKS RESUMED IN FEW DAYS." SECRETARY VANCE AGAIN QUOTED FOR BELIEF DIRECT DISCUSSIONS WOULD

RESUME IN 7 TO 10 DAYS.

4. VOICE IN WILDERNESS. AKHBAR PRINTS COMMENT BY ISRAELI WRITER AMOS KENNAN (YEDIOT) ON DIFFICULTY OF EXPLAINING TO ISRAELIS ATTITUDE OF EGYPTIAN MAN-IN-STREET. ACCORDING KENNAN "WE ISRAELIS HAVE TO GIVE EGYPT BACK THE LAND OF EGYPT AND EGYPT WILL GIVE US IN RETURN SOMETHING VERY DESIRABLE: RECOGNITION AND PEACE". KENNAN BELIEVES TEMPORARY SETBACK COULD NOT IMPEDE EVENTUAL PEACE.

ADDITIONAL EGYPTIAN STRAW GRASPING IS REPORT THAT "ARAB-

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ISRAELI FRIENDSHIP LEAGUE" HAS BEEN FORMED BY PERSON OR PERSONS UNKNOWN AND IN FIRST STATEMENT CALLED ON PEOPLES OF TWO COUNTRIES OVERCOME ALL OBSTACLES TO PEACE.

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5. COMMENTARY. EDITORIAL THEMES REMAIN UNCHANGED. AHAM FOUND IT NECESSARY "PLACE U.S. BEFORE ITS RESPONSIBILITY" BEFORE ISRAELI "INTRANSIGENCE" DESTROYS PEACE EFFORTS. EXHORTED PRESIDENT CARTER TO REALIZE U.S. INTERESTS LIE NOT IN ISRAEL ALONE, BUT ALSO IN ARAB WORLD. "HENCE, U.S. SHOULD UNDERTAKE ITS SPECIFIC RESPONSIBILITY TOWARDS THOSE WHO THREATEN WORLD PEACE AND SECURITY AND IGNORE THE PRINCIPLES OF HUMAN RIGHTS". AKHBAR WANTED VANCE TO REALIZE THAT RESUMED NEGOTIATIONS NOT AN END IN THEMSELVES. "THEY FOUNDERED ON BEGIN MANEUVERS AND PREVARIATIONS . . . IT USELESS TO RESUME TALKS JUST TO RUN AGAIN INTO CUL DE SAC CREATED BY BEGIN'S ILLUSIONS AND DREAMS OF THE PROMISED LAND AND CREATION OF AN ISRAELI EMPIRE FROM EUPHRATES TO THE NILE. IF VANCE REALLY EAGER SEE NEGOTIATIONS BEGIN AGAIN, HE SHOULD SEE TO IT THAT THEY START ON BASIS OF DEFINED PRINCIPLES FOR PEACE. ENTIRE WORLD APPEALS TO U.S. TO FULFILL ITS RESPONSIBILITIES."

6. COMMENT: GUIDED PRESS HAS NOW PUT DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES AT CENTER OF SEARCH FOR MEANS TO RESTIMULATE PEACE PROCESS. IT ARGUES STRONGLY THAT ONLY U.S. CAN GET DECLARATION DRAFTED AND ASSUME ISRAEL IMPLEMENTS IT. MEANWHILE ACRIMONIOUS EXCHANGE CONTINUES. EGYPTIANS STUNG BY "UNJUSTIFIABLE" ISRAELI ALLEGATIONS OF ANTI-SEMITISM. EGYPTIANS ALREADY BELIEVE NOTORIOUS BEGIN DINNER TOAST LUMPED THEM IN WITH NAZIS AND ARE BEGINNING TO OPEN THEIR DOSSIERS ON ISRAELI "ATROCITIES". IN SHORT, PSYCHOLOGICAL BARRIERS MAY BE RE-EMERGING DESPITE UNIVERSAL DESIRE FOR PEACE AND "DIRECT CONTACT" OF PAST TWO MONTHS. EILTS

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